

CTV 06-1, Comments

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August 2, 2006

Ms. Judith F. Judson, Chairman  
Mr. James Connelly, Commissioner  
Mr. W. Robert Keating, Commissioner  
Mr. Brian Paul Golden, Commissioner  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Department of Telecommunications and Energy  
One South Station  
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

Dear Chairman Judson, Commissioner Connelly, Commissioner Keating and Commissioner Golden:

I am writing to you today as not only a consumer, but also as a small business owner. Recently, it has come to my attention that Verizon has requested that your agency approve their application for statewide franchising of their cable television services. I strongly oppose Verizon's proposal.

As someone who is extremely involved in the community and as a former Cable Advisory Committee Member and Chairman at the local level, I certainly do not feel that Verizon has any right to simply avoid having to negotiate and deal with communities where they wish to offer services.

I know first hand how important local franchise negotiations are to a community. As a municipality in Massachusetts, we are already limited to property taxes and limited by home rule as far as available revenue-generating mechanisms that we can implement. A community's ability to negotiate with potential cable providers has become something that every community relies upon.

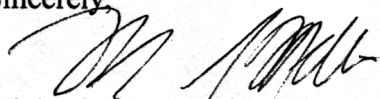
The way in which Verizon has approached this matter, by filing a petition with DTE in a blatant attempt to avoid having to interact with the very communities they want to serve is unacceptable and quite frankly, insulting to consumers and business owners alike. As I am sure you are aware, every community in this Commonwealth depends on local franchise agreements as a means of not only ensuring that the community and the company are able to foster a healthy working relationship, but also as a means of securing additional revenue whether it be having a certain percentage of the rates going back to communities or having funds allocated for our schools and libraries.

In my business, I must abide by the various codes and regulations that the town has determined

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necessary. I may not always agree with those restrictions, but I understand that ultimately, such restrictions benefit my community. It is for this reason and the ones stated above, that I strongly oppose Verizon's application. If I have to abide by regulations, and current cable providers do, why should Verizon be exempt?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Modestino', written over a light gray rectangular background.

Michael F. Modestino